

Montana State Senate

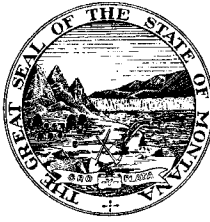


EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2/6/07
HB 339

MIKE COONEY
SENATOR

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January 6, 2007

The Honorable John Sinrud
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Chairman Sinrud:

Due to a previous commitment this evening I am unable to attend the Appropriations' Committee meeting on HB 339 introduced by Representative Small-Eastman.

For the past several years I was employed by Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies: The Montana Coalition. Much of our activity revolved around educating the public about the importance of proper child passenger safety. Included in these efforts were outreach programs throughout Montana to promote child safety seats. All the evidence points to the fact that properly installed child safety seats save lives and reduce the chance of serious injury.

House Bill 339 will allow DPHHS to purchase child safety restraint systems and make them available to people under 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies and other groups do provide child restraints for free or reduced charge, but they are not able to meet the increased need for these restraints.

I strongly support HB 339 and all of Representative Small-Eastman's efforts towards making sure that children are safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Cooney".

Please support HB 339.